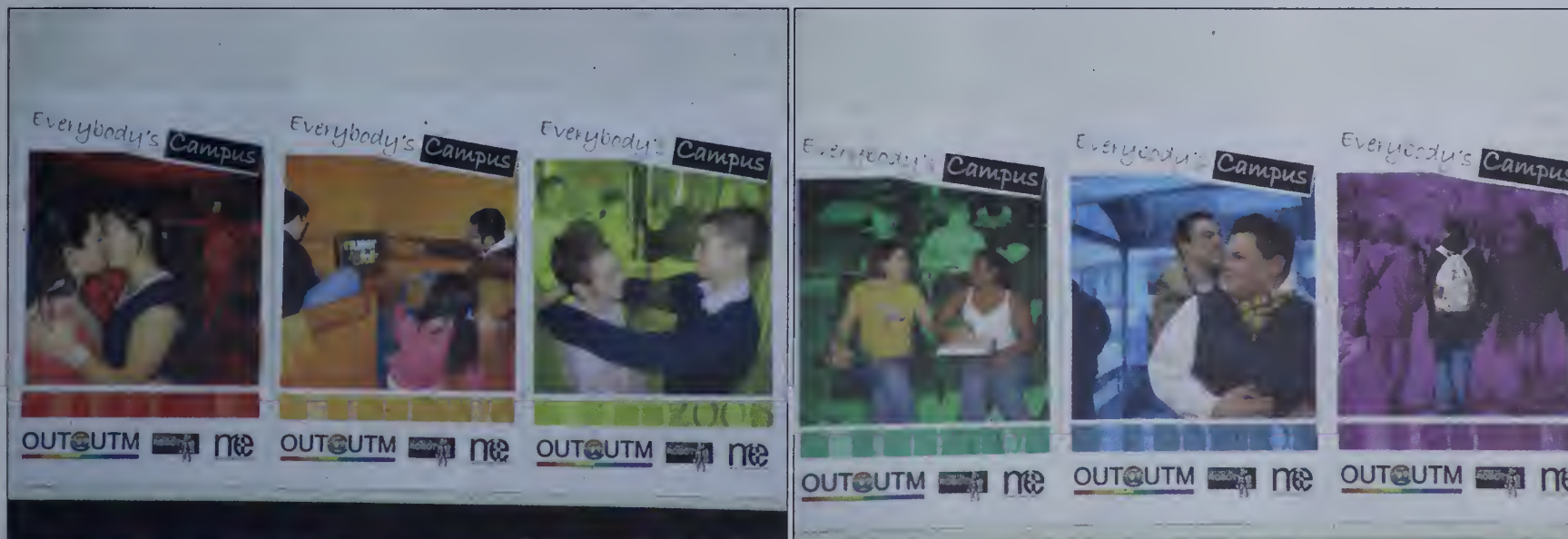


Queerly Visible Posters



photos/Denise Gibson

A recent initiative by OUT@UTM and the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) saw the launch of six different posters on campus depicting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer students involved in everyday situations on campus. The posters are meant to promote sexual diversity at UTM and emphasize equality among all students regardless of sexual identity or orientation.

SAC election results see *Progress* ticket voted into all exec positions

SAC claims a total of 39,618 students vote in election

By JULIE TYIOS

The results are in: as of last Friday, a new wave of Students' Administrative Council (SAC) executives were voted to step up and run the organization in their annual spring elections.

This year's campaign featured over thirty candidates vying for one of six executive positions, most of who ran together on one of six unified tickets. This year all of the winning candidates belonged to the Progress ticket, which made an official contract to the students of the U of T prior to their win.

Garnering the position of President was Paul Bretscher, who received 2,431 of 5,685 votes, 1,445 more than



SAC VP UTM Walied Khogali

the runner-up, James Webster. Joining him as Vice-President Operations will be Monique Ferdinand with 2,209 votes of 5,490. Estefania Toledo as Vice-President University Affairs with 1,839 of 5,157 votes, Jennifer Hassum as Vice-President External with 2,184 of 4,965 votes, and Shaila Kibria as Vice-President Equity with 1,827 of 4,903 votes. The position of SAC Vice-President UTM went to current executive member Walied Khogali, who received 992 of 1,133 votes.

The Progress ticket made a number of campaign promises, including a bid to run a deficit-free Orientation Week, securing 24-hour online access to the Repository of Student Information (ROSI), increasing Metropass sales locations, increasing the budget of student clubs by at least 50% and ensuring that UTM money stays with UTM students. Of the candidates elected, only Khogali and Kibria are from

UTM, both of which have been politically active in the past.

"I am extremely happy and proud of the voter turnout at UTM. It's the highest in UTM history. I am glad students came out in large numbers and voted for their representatives for next year. I am positive Walied will do a superb job as VP UTM next year" remarked current SAC VP UTM Moneeza Ahmed.

Much of the election process ran smoothly, with a majority of the problems related to improper campaign poster placements. Vice-President External hopeful Jonathan Jaffit was disqualified from the race prior to the elections for harassing campaigners for the Progress ticket. Vice-President University Affairs candidate David Fremes was also disqualified for harassment to other candidates, but appealed the motion and was allowed to re-enter the race.



SAC VP Equity Shaila Kibria



SAC President Paul Bretscher

IN MEMORIAM



Professor David Trott
UTM French Faculty
March 2nd, 2005

Read article and obituary on page 2

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Vin Diesel does Disney	6
A Day in Drag	9
Basketball Tournament Champs	10

MONDAY
MOVIE
MADNESS

THIS MONDAY
MARCH 7TH

12 - The Gods Must be Crazy
2 - The Life Aquatic
4 - I Heart Huckabees
6 - The Day After Tomorrow

THE DETAILS

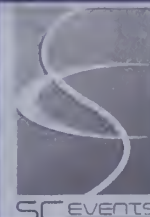
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MARCH 14TH

12 - National Treasure
2:30 - Spanglish
5:30 - Ocean's Twelve



French professor David Trott passes away

BY JULIE TYIOS

requested to the Erindale College prize in French.



On March 2, long-time French faculty member and Professor David Trott passed away from cancer.

Trott will be remembered by many as a good friend, mentor, and colleague. Many students and staff have expressed sympathy at his passing.

"David was a part of UTM from its very first days and always was a strong supporter of our campus and of French at UTM," said fellow faculty member Pascal Michelucci. "I will remember how genuine he was; and how all the parts of his life, academic and personal, blended seamlessly. . . He was a selfless, good man and we will all remember him."

"Professor Trott was an exceptionally kind person. He was so dedicated to us, his students and for that I will never forget him. He had a deep love for the French language and he left a little bit of that with us all. He will be missed and most importantly always remembered" said student Maryangel Mendonza.

Much of Professor Trott's work was research on 18th century French theatre, of which he was a world-renowned expert. He was also the recipient of a UTM Teaching Award several years ago and was a key instrumental voice in obtaining the North Building computer lab. He had a passion for world travel, going across Europe and partaking on trans-Canada journeys frequently throughout his life.

A funeral service was held for Professor Trott last Saturday at Trull Funeral Home in Toronto. Donations in memory of Professor Trott are

"David will be greatly missed by his family, friends, colleagues, students and all who knew him. To his family he was the world; his love and encouragement were boundless. His devotion, patience, sense of fairness and understanding made him a friend more than a colleague. David's dedication, passion, and use of innovative teaching techniques made him an admired and respected teacher. David lived his life to the fullest, whether in the Canadian wilderness or in a French crêperie; at home with his family or in the language lab, from the Bibliothèque nationale to the Dairy cream; from the Comedie française to Theatre Erindale. For all of us he was a wonderful person, full of optimism, generosity and kindness. He has inspired us all and will be sorely missed. He is and always will be present in our hearts."

- From the obituary of David Trott

Jeffrey Simpson discusses Canada's Global Agenda in UTM lecture

BY YVETTE BOCHAR

Jeffrey Simpson extolled the virtues of a more global-minded Canada to a small audience at Matthews Auditorium last Wednesday evening. With an impressive list of credentials, the national affairs columnist for the *Globe and Mail* was introduced as "Canada's most influential writer in Canada's most influential newspaper."

Simpson has written for the *Globe and Mail* for more than twenty years. He has also contributed to several other publications, won prestigious literary awards, and lectured at high profile universities across North America.

The focus of Simpson's lecture at UTM last week was Canada and its ideal global agenda. He introduced his subject by noting the new slogan employed by the bookstore Chapters: "The world needs more Canada."

"The inference is that Canada would benefit the world," Simpson said. However, the truth of the matter is that Canada needs the world. According to Simpson, Canada is in a prime position to become "the most internationally connected country in the world," and we can only prosper by "becoming markedly more global in our thinking and in our constitution." As a country of only 32 million people, Canada needs as much of the world as it can get.

The national vision of Canada should be "connecting the country to the rest of the world as no other country is connected," Simpson urged. This new mission does not involve plans for world domination, he joked, but rather strategies for putting Canada in a more international frame of mind, thereby ensuring its success as a country.

The tools which Canada does possess that are necessary for achieving this

vision include two of the world's leading international languages - French and English, an increasingly multi-cultural society, an economy dependent on trade and a positive - though "blurry" - international reputation. The most valuable advantage currently in Canada's possession is, however, a stable financial state. By spending the better part of the last two decades aligning social and economic policies, we have diminished and avoided deficits, making ourselves the "leading industrial country with a solid balance sheet," according to Simpson.

Furthermore, the balance sheet of other leading industrial country, the United States, is currently in the red by \$430-450 billion, giving Canada the competitive advantage. This means, according to Simpson, that there is no better time than now to pursue a more global national vision. The main obstacle for this vision, however, is a current lack of political expression.

More funds must be invested in human skills development. "The private sector doesn't do a very good job in promoting or financing skills development or training," Simpson pointed out, emphasizing the fact that Canada's productivity depends on training, which will allow us to compete in the global market. Simpson mentioned important related issues which are often not acknowledged, namely the "emerging evidence of an immigrant underclass" and "aboriginal underachievement." Although the responsibilities of language and skills training have been passed onto the municipalities, funds have not been properly allocated for fulfilling this responsibility.

"Global success is going to depend on brains, interconnectedness and an outward approach to the world," Simpson said. Another requirement for global suc-

cess is post-secondary education, which Simpson described as "critical for internationalizing Canada." Comparing the problems that plague both the health care system and the education system - such as doctor and professor shortages, waiting lists and large classes, and increasing costs and tuition - Simpson noted that reactions to these problems are severely lopsided in favour of health care.

In order to move forward, Canadians must realize the implications of investing all resources into a single institution - tradeoffs must be made, and post-secondary education has suffered too long as a result of being traded off for health care. By globalizing ourselves, Canada may learn better ways of organizing the health care system from the examples of other nations which, Simpson made a point of noting, does not necessarily mean adopting the system of the US.

Members from the crew of TV Ontario (TVO) were present at the lecture, filming Simpson for broadcast on the program, Big Ideas. Joey Hsu, producer of the show, agreed with Simpson, saying that Canadians "aren't as internationally minded as we think we are." According to Hsu, "If we're always [putting ourselves] in comparison with the [United] States, we're missing the point."

In closing, Simpson emphasized the fact that to "pursue the path of becoming the most internationally connected country - which it must," education must hold priority above other domestic concerns. Canada needs leaders who will articulate this more global national vision and create policies that will flow from that vision.

"Whoever does that," Simpson predicts, "is going to be the dominant politician of that next generation."

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UTM launches official Queer Visibility Campaign

Posters depicting same-sex couples and groups aims to promote equity

BY CHRISTELLE THIBAUT

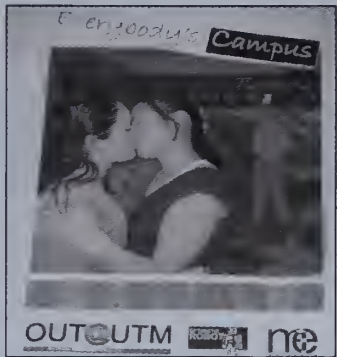
On February 23, OUT@UTM and the Students' Administrative Council's (SAC's) Ministry of Equity launched Everybody's Campus, a poster campaign designed to promote queer visibility at UTM. The six posters, each representing a colour of the rainbow, depict Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, and Queer (LGBTQ) students engaging in common activities on campus: standing in line at Tim Horton's, hanging out in residence, going to a pub night, sitting in lecture, waiting for the bus, and ambling down the 5-minute walk.

The "queer factor" comes in the form of small public displays of affection - men embracing and dancing together, women holding hands and kissing - and the use of gay icons like the television show *Queer as Folk* and rainbow flags.

"This is something we haven't seen on this campus, and it's an important facet of equity at UTM to recognize

that there is a queer community here," said Ryan Singh, Vice-President of OUT@UTM and co-Minister of Equity. Amanda Walker, also co-Minister of Equity for SAC, added,

"Queer students are too often invisible, yet they are going about their lives like all of us at UTM." The campaign aims to tap into some of the commonalities of the student experience, with an acknowledgment but no particular emphasis on differences in sexual orientation or gender identity.



photo/Denise Gibson

The posters received an overwhelmingly positive response when unveiled during the launch party, which was attended by approximately 40 student, faculty and staff members.

"Looking around the room, I think that one of the most encouraging aspects of the evening and the poster campaign in general is the support that's being shown by the allies of the LGBTQ community," noted Chad Jankowski, President of OUT@UTM. "It's not just a small queer clique that's behind all this." When asked if she was worried about being perceived as a lesbian, UTM Sexual Education Centre (SEC) executive and poster model Priyanka Pais responded,

"There is absolutely nothing wrong with being gay or lesbian, and I am happy to have helped create awareness." Chris McGrath, Director of Residence, summarized it well:

"It's not about labels, just people in our community."

Jason Nicols, Student Centre Events Coordinator, enthusiastically supported the display of the posters on a section of Student Centre wall and above the Presentation Room.

"I'm glad to see diversity work being done on campus that's moving us in a progressive direction, and that positive space will have a greater position at the forefront of advocacy in the future," he commented.

With the addition of more posters to the North and South Buildings, Everybody's Campus is now being shown on a wall near you.

OUT@UTM presents first-ever Drag Show pub night for students

BY JULIE TYIOS

Last Thursday UTM students had the opportunity to participate and watch the campus' first-ever Drag Show, organized by OUT@UTM in the Blind Duck Pub.

Many students showed up dressed in drag, several of which were set to perform lip-synched songs on stage for the amusement of those present. The event drew roughly a hundred students to the pub for the Drag Show, which received an enthusiastic response from the audience.

The show consisted of emcees from OUT@UTM, President Chad Jankowski as Regina Monologue and fellow OUT@UTM member and Past-President Skye Plowman as Rex Debonair introducing each individual act for the evening, as well as providing a little trans-gendered comedy for the crowd's amusement. Students in drag performed to the songs *I'm Too Sexy* by the group Right Said Fred, *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy* by The Andrew Sisters, *I Will Survive* by Gloria Gaynor, *Fly For a White Guy* by The Offspring, The Weather Girls' song *It's Raining Men*, and Steven Lynch's *If I Were Gay*; all of which received thunderous applause.

The acts for the evening were put on by a mix of both straight and gay students, all of whom jumped at the opportunity to perform at such an event.

"The fact that we had one straight girl, three straight guys, two gay guys, three lesbians and one other person for a first drag show says a lot," commented graduate and former Sexual Education Centre counselor Joseph Deogradas. "Others wanted to get involved as well, and the fact that we could gather that much diversity shows that this campus is getting to be a more open atmosphere. It's great that this happened, and a lot of people showed up in drag, surprisingly."

"I did it because it's fun dressing

up as a girl, and I know I'm sexier than any girl out there," remarked fourth-year student and performer of *I Will Survive* Taras Rosocha. "It's a very humbling experience, I know the stress and problems that girls go through to look good - plucking, waxing, etc. - and it's greatly appreciated. My feet are killing me, though."



Organizers of the event were thrilled that they received such an enormous response from students.

"I'm so happy that this got far more attention than we expected," said Skye Plowman. "We almost expected it to be sixteen gay people huddled in the back of the pub, this was by far more than we ever could have imagined."



photos/Denise Gibson

Host Skye Plowman (pictured at left) hosted the events under the pseudonym Rex Debonair. Two performers (pictured at right) pose following their rendition of *It's Raining Men* by the Weather Girls.

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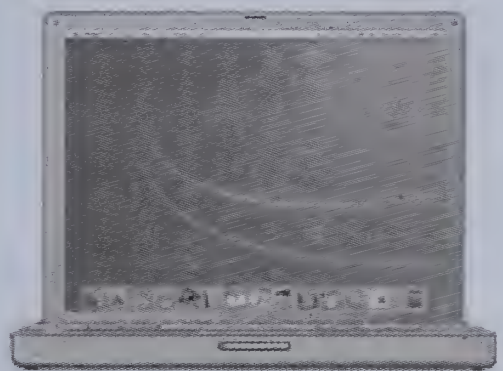
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Former U.S. congress members visit UTM

BY YVETTE BOCHAR

Visiting from their respective constituencies of Florida and Michigan, former Congress members Dan Miller and Bob Carrs offered their insights last Thursday regarding the administration and global agenda of President George W. Bush during his second term in office. Speaking to an almost full CCIT auditorium, both the Republican Miller and Democratic Carrs forecasted a bleak four year future for the United States.

"I'm not very optimistic that a lot is going to get accomplished," admitted Miller. This is primarily because Bush must face the "huge challenge" of dealing with a twin deficit (trade and fiscal). Since security and medicare are priorities of both the President and the American people, other institutions will have to suffer decreased funding.

"I agree with Dan [Miller] that we have big challenges," Carrs admitted, citing social security, tax policy, and balancing the budget as the major issues facing the Bush administration.

In addition to the fact that Democrats are

currently a minority in the government, he predicted that they will not be willing to give any "aid, comfort, or assistance" in the legislative process, minor issues being the exception. This Democratic retreat is a result of the legitimacy issues surrounding the first election of Bush to office, as well as the fact that Bush has "turned out to be the most partisan president in the eyes of Democrats we have ever had." Because of these issues, "Democrats are in the position to say, 'You own the government - have it,'" Carrs said. "The closer you approach the next election, things will only get worse," Carrs noted about the Republican and Democratic relationship.

The lecture lasted just under an hour and was followed by a half hour question period, where both politicians answered several student queries ranging in subject matter from the future of prisoners at Guantanamo to the free trade areas of the Americas.

Having drawn several laughs from the audience during their speeches, laughs were in turn drawn from Miller and Carrs as they were presented with gifts from the University, which included toques, an umbrella, and a pair of running shorts.

Islamic lecture addresses controversial French ban on religious freedom

BY RABEEA MOHAMMED

To conclude the Muslim Students' Association's annual Islam Awareness Week events on February 25, a panel discussion was held in conjunction with the Thaqalayn Muslim Association. The event, titled "A Threat to Western Civilization: Who, Me?" focused on the French Government's breach of Human Rights with their controversial articles of faith ban.

The speaker panel included Pardeep Singh Nagra, a Sikh boxer, Dr. Katherine Bullock, author of "Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil", as well as three student speakers: Nazia Khan, Nour Saran and Andrew Dhanipersad, who were featured to emphasize the personal relevance of articles of faith. The discussion topics ranged from the nature of secularism to oppression, individual rights and faith.

Dr. Bullock, a convert to Islam and a community activist, completed her Ph. D. in Political Science at the University of Toronto in 1999. She has taught and lectured on Islamic Civilization and Middle

East politics in California and Toronto. Her most recent appointment is with the University of Toronto, where she is teaching a course entitled "The Politics of Islam." Her publications include "Muslim Women Activists in North America: Speaking for Ourselves" and "Rethinking Muslim Women and the Veil: Challenging Historical and Modern Stereotypes."

Pardeep Nagra, a practicing Sikh, fought against boxing association officials to be able to box with his beard. Nagra finally won, and the Canadian Amateur Boxing Association (CABA) dropped the amendments regarding mandatory shaving. Nagra is the former student affairs diversity officer at UTM, where he worked with students and faculty on a number of issues.

Dr. Marta Simidchieva, moderator for the event, began by outlining the French Government's plans as a secular state to create citizens that owe allegiance to their state and not to any one way of life that they follow, to purge public space of all religious influences and to protect the

interests of the secular state. She also highlighted the opposing perspective - that the ban infringes on the rights of individuals in order to protect the interests of the secular state.

"The French have grossly misinterpreted this principle [the separation of church and state] to the point that they are violating human rights," stated Nagra. "This is something that affects all faiths."

The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits any state from coercing individuals and groups in matters of religious freedom, and permits doing so only for public safety reasons. Several Muslim and Sikh students in France were recently expelled from public schools for wearing articles of faith. In mid-2004, the European Commission on Human Rights ruled that the ban does not violate freedom of religion.

"If a Muslim woman covers, she does so out of religious obligation...as an expression of piety," explained Dr. Bullock on the nature of Muslim women's religious garments.



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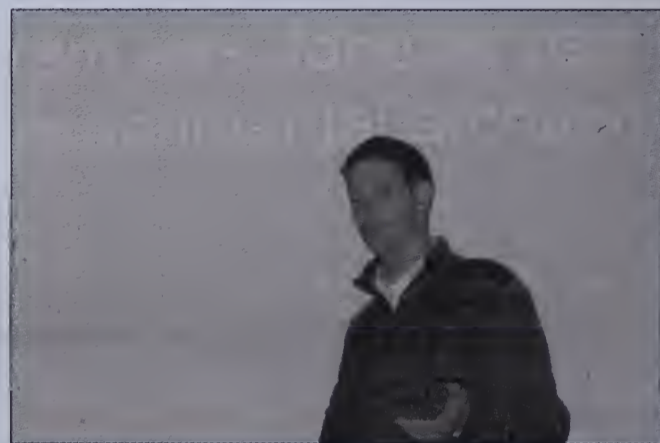
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Undergrad Research



photo/Adrian Barek

Lucas Melbye presents at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Student Centre last Thursday. Undergrad students had the chance to present their research findings to peers and professors at the event.

Events @ UTM

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Environment Week

What: A week to encourage environmental activism.
Where: UTM and St. George
When: Events run daily on both campuses from March 7 - 11.

Various campus environmental groups, along with the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) are hosting U of T's annual Environment Week to promote environmental awareness on both campuses.

Students are invited to partake in the week-long events at UTM, which include the sale of below-cost Nalgene bottles and reused paper notebooks. A free organic dinner will also take place in the Blind Duck Pub on Wednesday night.

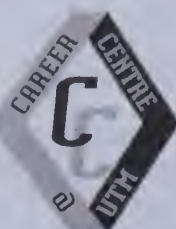
More information is available at <http://utern.sa.utoronto.ca>, which includes a full schedule of events.

Sex & U Week

What: A week-long event aimed at promoting sexual diversity.
Where: Across UTM campus
When: Events run daily from March 7 - 11

The week's events are to include Sex Olympics on Monday afternoon, sex toy seminars, women's self-defense classes, a SEXPO featuring various sex stores on Wednesday and the annual Sex Pub to be held on Thursday.

Students are encouraged to visit the events that are to be held in the Student Centre, to obtain information on sex and sexuality. More information can be found by visiting the Sexual Education Centre's website online at <http://home.utm.utoronto.ca/~sec/> or emailing sec@utm.utoronto.ca



ANTHROPOLOGY CAREER PANEL: Monday, Mar. 7, 5:30-7:30, Student Centre Boardroom.
DENTISTRY CAREER PANEL: Thursday, Mar. 10, 5:30-7:30, Student Centre Presentation Room.
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RESUME CRITIQUES: Tuesday, Mar. 8, 10-3; Wednesday, Mar. 9, 10-4; Thursday, Mar. 10, 10-1.
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EDITORIAL

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What's next?

This one is for all you near-graduates out there. "What's next?" How many times have we been asked that question in the last few months? With every week that goes by I get asked more and more what my plans are post-graduation. And you know what? I don't have a clue. And I know I'm not alone. Being a fifth year student, I've seen many friends and acquaintances push their way through the darkened maze that is a U of T degree only to emerge blinded and bewildered on the other side, the vast possibilities of post-graduate life spread out before them like grains of sand in a desert.

For many of us, attending university was the last certain step in the ladder of life. Way back in elementary school, the road ahead of us had already been mapped out, often times with the help of our parents. After elementary school came high school. After high school was university. After university was... well, therein lies our problem. What to do next? Life after graduation is like a Saturday night. You don't make advance plans but you know for sure that you'll be doing something. Deciding what that something will be is the tough part. Making it happen, I'm convinced, is the easy part.

A distant relative of mine gave me the typical family quizzing a few weeks back: "So you're graduating soon" she said, "what will you be?" There was only one sure answer I could give her, and it is the same answer that I desperately cling to as the reality of post-grad life approaches. "I will be me" I said. That is about the only thing I am sure of for my future.

But enough about me, what are my peers doing? Some among us near-graduates have better laid plans than I. Usually though, the advance plans involve more school. Those with the 'student for life' mantra have already applied and hopefully been accepted to a graduate program somewhere. A masters in something or other, perhaps teachers college, or maybe they're seeking applicable job skills at a college somewhere.

For those not seeking more debt - I mean schooling - post-grad life invariably involves work of some kind. There is no shortage of work out there for anyone motivated enough to find it. But don't be surprised if you end up doing something that seems the very antithesis of your degree. Have a degree in biology? You'll probably get a job as an accountant. So you're a philosophy and history major? Why not get into web design?

There are also less conventional jobs out there. Everyone seems to have at least one friend who just up and left to teach English in some remote corner of the globe. For those looking for employment a little closer to home, a few grads go on to work for the U of T. Programs like the 'Fellowship in Advancement' are designed to give graduates a one-year contract position upon their graduation. Others, like recent UTM alumnae, Audrey Iwanik, get hired on full time in administrative positions at the university. When asked what she thought of working for the same university where she received her degree, she responded smartly, "I paid them a lot of money for my education, it's about time they began paying me back."

Besides more school or settling into a career of some sort, traveling seems to be a popular plan for many. Working adults will tell you time and again to get your traveling done early before you are confined by the responsibilities of family or career. With the surging value of the Canadian dollar, now is as good a time to travel as any.

When the time comes for you to move past UTM into the grander scheme of things, what you do does not matter so much as why you do it. Whether you're applying to grad programs, searching for a job, or planning travel destinations, make sure you have yourself first in mind. Parents exercise great control over our lives up to and including university. With a degree in hand - or hung on wall - the time has come for you to do what is best for you.

Family members will ask you what you plan to do after you graduate. They will imply - subtly or blatantly - what they think is best for you. They mean well with the advice they give, but only you can chart life's course in such a way as to satisfy yourself. Whether Saturday night or the rest of your life, the possibilities are endless. Just don't ask us what's next!

Till next time...

Adrian Barek

THE MEDIUM is published weekly by Medium II Publications; a non-profit, incorporated student organization. The opinions expressed within are those of the writers and editors and do not necessarily reflect those of Medium II Publications. THE MEDIUM's mandate includes informing students of local and national concerns, and giving Erindale College students an opportunity to practice journalism.

A quiet day in the office today, and me, one of the... (text continues in a small, repetitive font, likely a placeholder or a very small article snippet)

Residence Formal favours Rez Council executives and their friends

Tickets for the annual residence formal went on sale to the residence community this past week, or at least that is what myself and many other residence students thought. Apparently as of March 2 - one day after the sale began - all or most of the 200 tickets had been sold. What baffles me is the fact that I never once saw anyone selling tickets in the foyer of Roy Ivor Hall as is normally seen for any event put on by the residence council.

According to people who have tickets and even some residence council members, ten or more tickets were given to each residence council member and block representative to sell to whom they

wanted for the advertised \$30.

There must be, at the very least, ten people who are a council member or block representative which means at least 100 of the 200 available tickets were sold directly to the friends of residence council members whether they live on residence or not. To me, this seems unfair to the residence community because not everyone had equal opportunity to purchase tickets. Residence Formal now sounds more like a Residence Council Banquet for members and their friends rather than for the entire residence community. I honestly can't believe that this major event could be handled with such sly tactics and unfairness.

Apparently more tickets have been made available though, only they cost \$50 instead of \$30! I guess these tickets are for those who really want to attend the formal and are not close friends with residence council members. Even still I don't see anyone selling these tickets. I don't even see posters to advertise the sale of these tickets. By now there is probably nothing that can be done to rectify this issue. However, an explanation on what exactly happened with the tickets and why they were distributed in this manner I'm sure would be appreciated by all the residence students.

Mike Ip

Blackwood Gallery Curator sheds light on mysterious billboard

re: WTF? (Vol. 31, Iss. 21)

Dear Editor,

It was great to see curiosity sparked by the new billboard on the side of the South Building. Just to solve the riddle: the new billboard is a temporary installation by internationally celebrated Vancouver artist and Professor of Visual Arts at UBC, Ken Lum. The billboard is sponsored by the Blackwood Gallery with a special project grant from The Canada Council for the Arts.

The billboard continues Ken Lum's explorations of the role of photography and language in the context of advertising culture. Titled "I don't know what's right or wrong," the billboard is part of a recent and ongoing

series of works by the artist juxtaposing various emotionally expressive portraits with captions that invariably begin with "I don't know..."

The work is part of a new and ongoing series of works especially commissioned for the outdoor, illuminated light box first mounted by Toronto artist Bernie Miller in 2000 (with a mirror image of the Five-Minute Walk) and donated to UTM by Dr. Jeanne Randolph. The mirror image will be returned to the billboard after refurbishment, to be temporarily interspersed by new projects that also examine and reflect on the form of address of contemporary advertising and public signs.

For more information on Ken Lum, you are welcome to drop by the Blackwood Gallery to look at the cat-

alogue on display, or visit The Power Plant Art Gallery at Harbourfront (Toronto) which is hosting a retrospective of the artist's work.

By the way, in support of developing critical writing on the visual arts the Blackwood Gallery is holding a writing contest on this work with a prize of \$100 with a deadline of March 31st, 2005 (500 to 1000 words max.).

We are looking forward to submissions to fischer@utm.utoronto.ca.

Best regards,

Barbara Fischer
Director/Curator,
Blackwood Gallery

Newspaper coverage of artwork unprofessional

re: WTF? (Vol. 31, Iss. 21)

I must say that I was extremely offended by the headlining article in last week's edition of *The Medium*. Placing the title "WTF?" above a billboard that caused a few students to "scratch their heads in collective perplexion" (last I checked this was not a word) struck me as being unprofessional and amateur. If this billboard has created so much confusion I would think that investigative journalism would be the logical approach to solving such an issue!!! What better way to inform the UTM campus than to provide them insight into such a perplexing object.

Granted there is no photo credit, but I think that Ken Lum (a conceptual photographer from Vancouver) would be deeply insulted, as I am, to

have the local newspaper trash talk his donated public art piece, which has been commissioned by the U of T.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and not everyone has to like this work, but the lack of constructive communication that has come out of *The Medium* is more than unsettling.

Due to the fact that the author has chosen to remain anonymous (which bothers me even more) I am unable to direct this complaint toward them. Therefore, I will direct my complaint to everyone at *The Medium* to make sure that something like this does not happen again.

Sincerely,

Kyle Mikkola

Research into artwork lacking

re: WTF? (Vol. 31, Iss. 21)

I was so embarrassed when I saw the front page of *The Medium* last week. That light box outside the South building is a piece of artwork by the internationally known artist Ken Lum. By putting a picture of that work with the lovely caption "WTF?" you have made not only everyone at *The Medium* but unfortunately the rest of the student body, look like a bunch of cultural neanderthals. It also occurs to me that you did not make the slightest effort to actually find out what it was and report it to the students.

Next time please do your research.

Natalie Harder

Send responses, rants, letters, and opinions to...

editor@mediumonline.ca

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Letters to the editor will be edited for spelling, grammar, style, and coherence. Letters will not exceed 800 words in print.

Letters that incite hatred, violence or letters that are racist, homophobic, sexist, or libelous will not be published. Anonymous letters will not be published.

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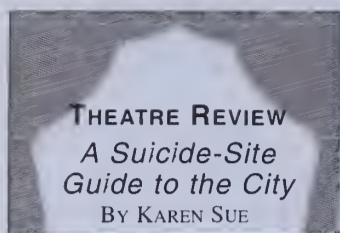
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Submission does not guarantee publication. Submission of a letter to *The Medium* presumes the writer has read and agrees with this policy.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

O'Donnell's play connects to audience


THEATRE REVIEW
A Suicide-Site Guide to the City
 BY KAREN SUE

I never thought I'd feel sorry for a streetcar, until I saw the world through the eyes of Darren O'Donnell. *A Suicide-Site Guide to the City* is O'Donnell's take on the contemporary world through a complex arrangement of thoughts on suicide, political governance, and the pathos a streetcar must feel during a power outage. O'Donnell hugs the imaginary streetcar while chiding, "Oh Streetcar, you're being paranoid again."

In combination with multimedia, as provided by his sound director Nicholas Murray, and stage manager, John Patrick Robichaud (both brought onstage to "perform"), O'Donnell has brought what he calls conversational theatre to the international circuit, performing across

North America and Europe. O'Donnell engages the audience by introducing himself and asking how everyone is feeling. As the evening progresses O'Donnell pushes the boundaries of intimacy towards a truly interactive performance. The small talk transforms into confessions of "I love you," and almost in an afterthought he invites anyone to join him onstage for a make-out session. Guy or girl, it doesn't matter. After some more probing and prodding (no pun intended) a man gets up and walks purposefully to the open-armed O'Donnell. You could feel the love emanate around the room as these two strangers embrace passionately.

The warm and fuzzy feelings were contrasted to the more somber discussions of suicide and the political state of the world. O'Donnell flashes back into his past, narrated through old journal entries. The tragic effects of September 11th still resonate as he sits in an airplane between an Arab girl named Farheen and an air safety marshal. O'Donnell describes the internal struggle these two worlds represent within him, and how the

ever-ambivalent world tears him up inside.

O'Donnell professes to be "tired of acting" and cannot even bring himself to cry on cue – hence the onion he uses to rub unforgivingly into his eyes. The sardonic silliness, paired with the stark commentary, act as a metaphor for the mood of our generation. That streetcar might have had reason to worry about the power never coming back on, but O'Donnell's humorous insight brings a sort of calm to the chaos.

What O'Donnell offers is not for the passive viewer. He traps the audience with his words, pictures and sounds, and asks them literally what's on their mind in an after show Q & A period. Though you aren't forced to join in, you can't help but feel connected to something bigger than the performance on stage. With that I leave you with one question: have you hugged a streetcar today?

A Suicide-Site Guide to the City plays at Buddies in Bad Times Theatre (12 Alexander Street) until March 20, 2005. For more information: www.mammalian.ca

Vin Diesel does Disney

MOVIE REVIEW:
The Pacifier

BY ADAM DOMENCHINI

I imagine one of the worst fates that could befall a Hollywood heavyweight is to be typecast into a certain role. Granted, it's not as bad as blowing your health away on booze and drugs (cough, Robert Downy Junior, cough), nor is it as bad as being caught tea-bagging some call-girl in a questionable sexual escapade (anyone remember Hugh Grant?). Being typecast does, however, have the same effect – it leaves the unlucky entertainer with a reputation of being one-dimensional, something they definitely don't want amongst their Hollywood peers and box-office admirers. But every so often, we see a new action hero expand their résumé by making a bold leap into the world of comedy. We leave it up to these Musketeers of entertainment to prove that they truly belong.

In a surprising move, Vin Diesel (*The Chronicles of Riddick*) has added his name to the list of would-be actors attempting to make a transition between genres. In Disney's new film *The Pacifier*, Diesel eschews familiarity as he trades in his rocket launchers and testosterone for baby powder and apple juice on an interesting stroll through the nuances of suburban life.

Shane Wolfe (Diesel) is a hard-nosed Navy SEAL Lieutenant sent in to rescue an abducted U.S. scientist and his plans of global nuclear disarmament from a gang of ambitious rebels. When the rescue turns sour, Wolfe is given a new mission: to enter civilian life as an undercover babysitter and protect the children of the assassinated

scientist from further harm. How hard could that be, right? Besides, Wolfe is a bad-ass frogman whose swollen body and cool-boy attitude has negotiated itself through countless excursions into hostile territory. He quickly realizes that dodging baby vomit and teenage attitude has all the makings of enemy combat, with a shifted context, and the only explosions he now faces are those originating from the back end of diapers.

Enduring driving lessons, theatre directing, and a macho school VP, Wolfe snakes his way through family life with his fair share of obstacles. But when the enemy eventually discovers the family's whereabouts, Wolfe must take a stand and assume the dual role of protecting both the well-being of the nation and the family for which his affection has grown.

It takes little time to discover that this new installment from Disney caters to a specific audience. Labeled as a James Bond meets Mary Poppins adventure, the endearing message, the humour, the music, and the playful fight scenes are scripted to amuse a younger generation. However, this outcome is often criticized by us older viewers because the film at times may seem cornier than the kernels in your munchies bag. It seems Disney has done little here in its attempt to recruit repeat viewers, a challenge made much easier by productions that entertain both young and old. And ahhh... Vinny, Vinny, Vinny... although your presence is felt and your attempt is noble, you come up a little short in convincing the viewers that you belong in a role this far from the norm.

There are bright spots to note: the humour and message, although young at heart, is still sincere, and the in-

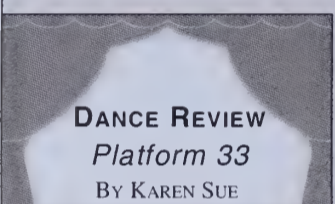
your-face VP gives us a throw back to Principal Richard Vernon of *The Breakfast Club*, a tactic that keeps it fresh for us adults. But don't be surprised if *The Pacifier* stumbles at the box office and Diesel finds himself in a world of scrutiny for his failed metamorphosis from freedom-fighter to funnyman.



photo/Kerry Hayes, Disney 2005

It's a dirty job, but Diesel's gotta do it in *The Pacifier*.

Three women speak through dance


DANCE REVIEW
Platform 33
 BY KAREN SUE

Platform 33 is a spectacle of sorts, as to which kind I'm not completely sure. The performance held at the Harbourfront Centre Theatre showcased the talents of Canadian dance artists Shannon Cooney, Susan Elliott, and Linnea Swan of Platform 33 (a collective of dancers). The performance was divided into three movements – "L'avenir," "Shelf Life" and "Seven Ways to Tell Time" – each created by a different choreographer, giving every piece a distinct life of its own. A common marker to all three

performances was in how the dancers moved with chaotic grace, reminiscent of everything ponderous from the mechanical to the subterranean.

The three dancers (Cooney, Elliott, and Swan) moved in perfect harmony with each other, giving off the strong sense that their sisterhood extended beyond the stage into their personal lives. The first dance, "L'avenir," began with a countdown from 35 seconds. As soon as they approached zero, the three sprung into synchronous action, crawling along the ground in a specific geometric formation. They moved with the eerie jerkiness of a fish out of water, a characteristic imparted throughout much of the show.

They introduced spoken word to accent the moving symphonic score that accompanied each dance. In

"L'avenir" they recount to each other what it is they've lost in disjointed conversation. One says "I've lost time" and the tally grows to encompass love, books, friends and dreams. In "Shelf Life" the scene ends with Swan sitting down by herself saying "I'm alone" but only to be rescued by her mate Cooney, who taps her on the shoulder and leads her offstage.

This dance performance uses abstract ways to communicate the angels and demons these women must combat in their older age. They are caught in the emotional maelstrom and attempt to catch each other, although one eventually slips away or is left fallen. The pain is written on their faces, and enacted in their bodies. The only thing left for these women in the end is each other, as they sit together in the dimming spotlight.

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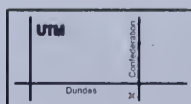
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RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY
PROGRAM (299Y)

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PLACE: STUDENT CENTRE,
PRESENTATION ROOM

TIME: 12:00 – 2:00 PM.

PLEASE DROP BY TO VIEW THE STUDENTS
PROJECTS ON DISPLAY AND ENJOY SOME
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS. THIS YEAR'S FAIR
WILL INCLUDE PROJECTS FROM A
NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING

BIOLOGY
CHEMICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES
GEOGRAPHY
PSYCHOLOGY

Precision timing of 2005 Oscars short but not sweet

By SARAH HUTCHISON

Yawn... At just over three hours, the 77th Annual Oscars celebration, which took place February 27, couldn't have ended soon enough. Over the years the event has continued to draw a smaller audience than anticipated and this year was no exception. Some attributed this to Chris Rock's opening monologue that included some mild Bush-bashing jokes. Apparently this led those in the 'red' states to turn their televisions off early. I think the numbers were down because anyone with sense figured out within the first hour that they had better things to do. Even my essay was more appealing than watching Beyoncé ruin yet another song that she was ill qualified to sing. In fact, I spent this year's Oscar fiesta on an emotional roller coaster of frustration, disbelief, and boredom.

To be honest the award show didn't start out too poorly. Chris Rock's opening monologue was pretty hilarious, despite what those in the 'red' states say. I quite enjoyed Rock's take on the war in Iraq being likened to a

war between the Gap and the Banana Republic. It was ridiculous and a bit shocking, which is exactly the way I like the Oscars. However, this year there was no Michael Moore, no Adrian Brody, or a drunken Elizabeth Taylor. Instead, the organizers of the Oscars decided to speed things up, make things funky, and kick people off the stage if their speech wasn't up to par with what makes 'good television.'

I don't know where the orders were coming from, but the recipients got exactly one minute from the moment their name was called to get to the mike and say a short, and I do mean short, speech of thanks. Considering how long the Oscars usually run you might think this was a good idea. Instead, the program took on a numbing hurried aura. The only person who got to speak longer than one minute was Jamie Foxx when he won the Oscar for Best Actor for *Ray*. I'm convinced this only happened because his speech was considered 'good television,' complete with tears and a thank you to his grandmother who recently

passed away. I'm not knocking Jamie Foxx, but I don't think you can let Foxx get away with a three minute speech and then justify cutting Clint Eastwood and Hillary Swank short (Best Director and Best Actress, respectively, for *Million Dollar Baby*) just because their speeches were a bit inanimate. The director of the Oscars, who has the responsibility to cut the winners off, was keeping the fingers of his minions in charge of the wrap-up music very busy. There were more people cut off this year than I have ever encountered in my years of watching the Oscars. It was rude and it made for very dull television. There was no spontaneity in the speeches, no joking around, and no hoopla. Nobody thanked God and we were lucky if they remembered their spouse and kids. Charlie Kaufman, winner of Best Original Screenplay for *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, summed it up perfectly when he got to the mike, looked at the teleprompter and remarked, "27, 26...wow that's really intimidating! Okay...thanks,"

and proceeded to run off the stage.

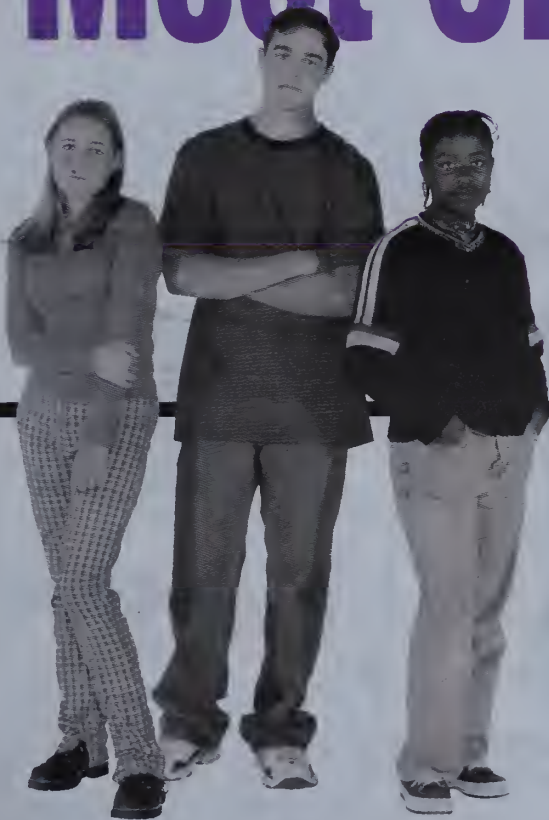
Perhaps what I most resented throughout the show was the decision to have the winners of the less "exciting" categories say their speeches from the audience. It was demeaning and unnecessary. And speaking about demeaning and unnecessary...having already mentioned her above I can't reiterate enough how incredibly terrible Beyoncé was. For some bewildering reason Beyoncé sang three out of the five Oscar nominated songs. First of all, why was she chosen to sing songs she was incapable of doing justice to? She is very obviously not a classically trained singer. Second of all, is this the Oscars or the Beyoncé Knowles show? She hurt my ears and I'm so sorry to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Josh Brolin, whose talents were both wasted because they were forced to sing with her.

However, all was not lost. Chris Landreth, previously of the University of Toronto's Computer Science Program, won Best Animated Short Film for his movie, *Ryan*. The compos-

er of the Best Original Song, "Al Otro Lado del Río" from The Motorcycle Diaries, sang his speech in a hauntingly beautiful voice. As well, Chris Rock's interviews with people at the local movie house in Los Angeles were humorous and proved just how popular *White Chicks* was in comparison with *The Aviator*. In fact, none of the Best Picture Nominees this year was a blockbuster. Come now, I know people like to go to the movies to escape, but *White Chicks* was more popular than *Million Dollar Baby*? It makes you wonder. I also enjoyed Johnny Depp's comment in response to the incredibly annoying Star Jones on the red carpet. When asked if he would let his daughter become an actress when she grew up, he responded, "She is so smart. I hope she does something more than this. More than what we're doing right now."

Next year skip the party and read about it in the paper instead. If the 2006 Oscars are anything like the 2005 Oscars, you'll be happy you're...yawn...sleeping.

Meet Ontario's Future



ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING:

"I am recommending a significant increase in public funding for higher education, both for institutions and for students in need."

The Honourable Bob Rae,

Advisor to the Premier and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities
Postsecondary Review report, *Ontario: A Leader in Learning*, February 2005

Ontario's students are Ontario's future. To create the knowledge-rich workforce Ontario needs to prosper in the new economy, our students need the best education that we can provide – because tomorrow's opportunities will belong to those who are the best educated and most highly skilled.

As students, you know how much the quality of your learning experience depends on adequate funding. An underfunded university can't hire faculty in sufficient numbers to ensure that you have meaningful contact hours with your professors. It can't keep your libraries as well resourced, or your classrooms and labs as up to date as they should be. It can't replace obsolete equipment or undertake campus repairs in a timely manner. It can't provide as many of the important student services that help you succeed.

There is an urgent need for our government to increase funding for Ontario universities, both to raise quality and to ensure affordability for every qualified student who wants to acquire a university education.

What can be done?

The Ontario government recently commissioned a review on the design and funding of Ontario's postsecondary education system. The report is now available at www.raereview.on.ca. Budget allocations will be determined in the coming weeks.

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A Strong Ontario Needs Strong Universities.

FEATURES

The Bus

By AMANDA MACCAGNAN

The beginning of my independence happened to coincide with the start of university. I know that it's a little pathetic, but that is the result when you put off getting a driver's license for no better excuse than pure laziness. This then implies that the only method of transportation that I had at my disposal was public transit. However, I had never taken a bus in my life, so it took a lot of getting used to. This is especially true because I no longer had the luxury of being taxied to school, or anywhere else for that matter, by my mother.

I thought that traveling by bus wouldn't be so bad, but before I started school, I had no idea what to expect. I didn't realize that I would have to wake up at 5 a.m. every morning just so that I could make my 9 a.m. class. I had no idea that I would have to be on the road by 6 a.m. and on the bus at 6:30 a.m. I didn't realize that the bus ride would take more than two hours. And I couldn't fathom the idea that it would be so difficult to keep my eyes open for that amount of time. This was the beginning of my tribulations of being a bus person.

If you have ever taken a bus early in the morning in the middle of winter, then you can understand what I am taking about now. First it feels as if your eyes are on fire, and the more you try to keep them open, the more they want to be closed. Then you think, I will just close them for a little, but only because they burn so much, I am definitely not going to sleep. Finally, you open your eyes as you feel the sharp turning of the bus, and see that you are at your stop. It is at this point

that you come to the realization that you had fallen asleep even though you told yourself you wouldn't.

The waking up part didn't always go that well for me. Sometimes I would wake up and be on the floor of the bus, having fallen off my seat with the people around me laughing. The worst of these series of incidences was the time I fell off the higher seats, you know, the ones in the middle of the bus that face each other. I had fallen asleep, such a deep sleep that I had forgotten where I was, again. This is when the bus made a drastic turn and I slid off my seat landing on the wet-from-melting-snow floor, as I woke abruptly. I remembered where I was as I quickly got up off the floor, hoping that nobody (or at least not many) had seen. Well, much to my disdain, everyone had seen, and not many could suppress their laughter. I should have been smarter about my seat selection, especially since it is more difficult to remain inconspicuous when falling off the seats in such an easily viewed area. Needless to say, I don't sit in that portion of the bus anymore. However, it wasn't embarrassing for long, because I did it so often. Other times I would be woken up by the bus driver, telling me that I had missed my stop again. That happened so often that one morning, when I was getting on the bus, the driver asked me when exactly I would like my wake up call. It's a little funny when the bus driver recognizes you by your sleep

habits.

Getting used to taking the bus also means getting used to the people on the bus. This is more difficult then staying awake because it seems that the earlier it is, the stranger the bus people get. You would think that if you saw a woman, half asleep, and in the worst mood ever (I am in a perpetual bad mood on the bus) that you would want to keep your distance. However, this is not the case most of the time. The bus people come up with the worst pick up lines, these range from complimenting my earrings, to handing me a phone number, giggling then running away. There was even a bus guy who really wanted my phone number and was quite vocal about it. When I told him that I had a boyfriend, he proceeded to yell at me for having the nerve to find a guy before I had met him. Having a boyfriend was apparently not a good enough reason for me to withhold my number from him. As I walked away, he protested greatly yelling about how he "would never see me again." Even when I look back on this moment, I can't see how I could have resisted his charm, or mania, whatever you prefer to call it. Then there are the people that you can't help but notice. These include the guy who swung from the hand rails, the guy who blew bubbles with his spit, and the

farting woman. These are just a few of the treasures that I have met during my travels on public tran-

sit. It got to the point that I decided I was going to ignore everyone around me and make my angry face as much as possible. I figured that people wouldn't want to talk to the angry faced woman in the corner. I was wrong. That's when another guy decided to try to convert me and save my immortal soul. I guess I had it coming. If there is one thing that I hate most about public transit, it would have to be the cold. Back in the day when my mom dropped me off and picked me up from almost everywhere I went, I never had to wait in the cold for more than 5 minutes at a time. I would never wear a coat, because "it's so not cool to wear a coat in the

middle of winter." Now, that has all changed. Waiting in the cold is expected. Clothing is for nothing but keeping warm during the wait. I am often seen looking similar to Humpty Dumpty due to the vast amount of layers that are under my coat. However, I still refuse to wear that scarf my mom gave me, but only because I have a tendency to lose everything that is not physically attached to me. But that is another story altogether. I say that this was the start of my independence because if I hadn't begun my epic bus journeys, then I would still be relying on other people to do everything, and because it forced me to grow up a little. It also allowed me to find humor in the situations that I would have once found embarrassing, and that I would not have known how to deal with in the past. Not to mention that I would not have any stories to tell about my troubles on the bus.

Precipitate Passion

By DOROTHY KOSINSKA

I want your kisses to pour over me
Like raindrops that caress the flower -
Swivel down its rosy curves,
Stroke its petals,
Decree themselves the passions' dower.
Embroider it with pearls of dew,
Flow into its crevices,
Saturate its hue -
Drench its luscious sweetness,
Fondle that, which they devour,
Hungriily rush through its core
Before falling from the bower.

SAC

UTM

**UTM'S ENVIRONMENT WEEK
MARCH 7TH-11TH**

Events included

Monday Movies

Student Centre Presentation Room
12:00 The Gods Must be Crazy
2:00 The Life Aquatic
4:00 I Heart Huckabees
6:00 The Day After Tomorrow

Activist Lane

Wilderness Survivor
Campus Nature Walk
Waste Reduction Day

Naturalization Workshop

FREE Organic Dinner

Hands-on Friday workshops

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Ministry Of Social Justice - Documentary
LIFE and DEBT 3PM PRESENTATION ROOM

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Drowning Cat

Has it ever occurred to anyone to consider what it must feel like to be a drowning cat? Cats, as a general rule, hate the water. To be a drowning cat must be particularly frustrating.

There are many ways, I believe, in which human beings can feel like drowning cats. For instance, to be a non-swimmer thrown from a boat without a life preserver must be the most obvious way to feel like a drowning cat. But there are others.

Imagine gaining a large amount of weight. You try to lose it by dieting, but who are you kidding? Diets don't work. The next time you check, you either weigh the same as you did before your diet, or more. You try to exercise, only to find out that muscle weighs more than fat, so again, you gain weight. Are you a woman? If not, imagine that you are. Having gained weight, and then gained more trying to lose it, while magazines and models and mannequins and seemingly everyone around you show you what you're supposed to look like, and remind you that you have not only missed your mark, but failed miserably. You, madam, are a drowning cat.

Imagine being stuck in an intellectual world of thought and ideas, where all of the world's problems are being solved one by one. Everything makes sense, and everything, for a change, seems clear. If only the world would listen for a minute to hear what you have to say, it would be a better place.

But nobody's interested. You haven't got the qualifications or the extra letters after your name to justify anybody wasting their time listening to you. The story you are trying to tell sounds too unbelievable for simple, inexperienced ears. When you finally get the chance to speak, only the insignificant minority takes the time to give you a chance. You, sir, are a drowning cat.

Imagine being different from everybody you have ever been introduced to. You want to embrace the differences and share perspectives. You want both to learn and to teach. You want to meet new people and hear new stories and expand your horizons. But everybody drifts away from you. People are afraid of differences, afraid of change, afraid that hearing new ideas may actually change their own convictions, as if their convictions were all that important to begin with. So you make no contacts, no colleagues, and no friends. You are a drowning cat.

Imagine standing in the pouring rain outside of the driver side door of your car. You would like to open the door, but you realize you have lost your keys. Your jacket has soaked through completely, and your pants have become stiff. You feel water seeping through your socks because your door is right next to a puddle, and your shoes only put up a fight against the water for the first five minutes. They gave up five minutes ago.

>>> BY NATALIE SIROTA

It's cold outside. And what do you hear as you fish around your fiftieth pocket for your keys? You hear your passenger waiting on the other side of the car, ordering you to hurry up and complaining that she's cold and wet and that the rain is ruining her leather jacket. She won't shut up. Again, you have become a drowning cat.

The drowning cat has no way out of the water. If it had one, it would not be drowning, but rather just temporarily in an uncomfortable situation that would be made comfortable momentarily, just as soon as the shore is reached. Once it reaches the shore, it would lie down in a warm and dry place, and lick its fur until it felt better about being alive. But the drowning cat does not have this option. The drowning cat is one that finds itself in the most painful, uncomfortable, and desperate situation possible with absolutely no way out. Eventually, the cat's predicament will prevail over the poor cat, and the pain will be gone, but until that happens, the cat will fight, hopelessly, against the pain and the discomfort. By doing so, the cat prolongs its own suffering, albeit in hopes of fighting the inevitable. The cat is not aware that it would, in fact, be easier to just let nature take its course, and that by doing so the pain, as well as all of the other pain the cat would have felt over the course of its life, would be eliminated. Cats are arrogant creatures. Swallowing their pride is never an option.

A Day In DRAG

>>>> BY TARAS ROSOCHA

It all started a month ago when my friend, Chad Jankowski, President of OUT @UTM, approached me during lunch and asked if I could perform in a drag show at UTM. I was hesitant at first because I wondered what people would think of me and, despite being a good-looking heterosexual male, (or so I think I am), I declined. I did not want to be considered gay, but I told my friend Chad that I would get back to him with a definite answer, and asked him to keep me posted with information.

I seriously thought about performing in the drag show but I was scared and nervous. What did I know about drag? All I knew about drag was what I saw in Hollywood movies. I was actually more scared than nervous.

Over the course of the month I received emails and a lot of information about drag from OUT @UTM. Chad was nice enough to keep in contact and try to convince me to perform. He told me I would have a very good stage presence and that I would do a good job. He told me that the show was not so much about being gay or lesbian, but about blurring the lines of gender. That really made sense to me but I was still nervous. I said I still needed to think about it.

It was a week away and I knew that I did not want to be part of the show. I was still afraid, but a very good friend of mine convinced me to do it. He told me that I should not be concerned with what other people will think. He told me that dressing up will help prove that I am very secure with my sexuality. It would prove that I could do something that would make a difference - a difference that would make people think in an open way, or, as Bob Marley said, "emancipate yourself from mental slavery..."

I called Chad and told him that I was in. To my surprise he told me that I was not the only heterosexual male in the show. There were other people who wanted to dress up and have some fun, and that was what it

was.... fun! It was so much fun trying to find an outfit, to have someone do my make-up and to get into character.

The show was now only a day away and still I did not have a song to sing. I did not know what to sing.

Being a bit meticulous, I needed a song that would represent my life and my way of thinking. The only song that came to mind was the classic song by Donna Summers, *I will Survive*. It was perfect. Just getting out of a sticky relationship, this would be the song that would help me free my character and my mind and get me ready for life. It was a great choice.

The day of the show came and I was pumped and excited. A friend of mine told me I had a very slimming figure and my legs were damn sexy. I was not sure if I should take that as

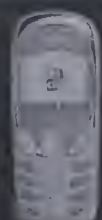
a compliment but I did. I knew that I could pull this off better than anyone... especially any one of the girls! My character was flawless. My beauty radiated throughout the pub and Trixie Stardust worked the room, talking to all the drag queens and drag kings. Apparently one drag queen was working my area and there was a little cat fight...but it was broken up...that bitch said I had no ass...anyways....apart from that it was a great night.

The show and the pub was a complete success. The turnout and the participation from all the students at UTM was incredible and I know that next year the pub will be even bigger and better. I want to thank you Chad for letting me experience a life changing event and I do recommend that everyone should try being a diva for a day.

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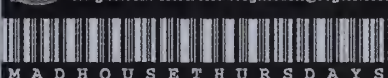
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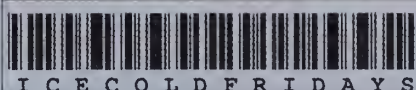
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SPORTS

Eagles win basketball tournament

BY JACK KRIST

UTM came out on top at the Sheridan College Extramural Tournament last Friday. The four team tournament featured Sheridan College's Junior Varsity team, Centennial College's Extramural team and the UTSC Tri-Campus team.

UTM faced Sheridan in their first game. Going into the game UTM knew that Sheridan was going to be their toughest competition. UTM has played very poorly in past tournaments in their early morning game, so it was no surprise that they were matched up with host team Sheridan in the opener. UTM was down 15-11 at the half and a big three pointer by Nancy Couture kept them close. Sheridan seemed to have UTM's number in the second half and UTM trailed by as much as ten at one point. UTM did not give up and fought back to tie the game, led by Laura Desveaux's ten second 1/2 points. UTM had the ball with the game tied and ten seconds to play but they could not get the shot off. The game remained tied as it was only round-robin play. Desveaux finished the game with twelve points to lead UTM in scoring.

UTM's next opponent was Centennial College. Centennial came out hitting everything, including baskets and UTM players. The lack of calls and Centennials aggressive play seemed to catch UTM off guard. UTM was down by five points with under a minute to play and trailed by three with four seconds left. UTM ran a great inbound play from their own end and Desveaux caught the ball in the Centennial end for a wide open three. The shot rimmed out but Lindsey Sones hustled down court and got the rebound. She put it back in just before the buzzer and was fouled. With no time on the clock, Sones was at

the line all by herself with a chance to tie the game. The foul shot fell short and UTM lost 41-40. Sones led all scorers with 14 points.

UTM then met UTSC in their last round robin game. UTSC had beat Centennial by three, so UTM knew they would have to win and force a three-way tie for second. UTM got out of the gate fast and led from wire to wire. Linda Williams had a monster game off the bench with eleven points. UTM's Jessica Fruiti was on fire from the floor with eight points. The 47-40 win gave UTM the best +/- of the three 1-1-1 teams; UTSC was third and Centennial finished fourth.

The semi-final match-up against UTSC was what UTM had hoped for, as this was the only team that UTM had not beaten in the tournament and they had not lost this season in three Tri-Campus league games. With the title in sight, the UTM team stepped it up a notch. UTM blasted out to a 22-11 lead at the half and coasted to a 41-34 win. This game was one of UTM's best team games of the year. Nine of the ten players hit the scoresheet. Sones led with eleven points, Natasha Barrington, Vanessa Centofante and Negar Tootoonchian all had five points each.

UTM then faced Sheridan in the final, only this time the UTM team was ready to play. The strong play of the bench players in the first four games allowed UTM's starters to come out and dominate in the Championship. UTM opened the game in style, with Desveaux and Tootoonchian hitting two big threes. UTM held a slim 25-21 lead at the half. UTM never trailed in the second half and with great defense they pulled into a ten point lead with just over three minutes to play.

However, Sheridan hit two straight

3's to pull within four points and the fight to the finish was on. Key baskets by Barrington exploding to the basket and a big three by Desveaux sealed the UTM win 51-48. Barrington and Desveaux had 14 points each. The point guards Arlene Valladolid and Centofante did an awesome job of finding open looks for their team mates. Great outside shooting with four three pointers by Desveaux and two by Tootoonchian, opened up the inside game for the UTM posts Barrington, Sones, Williams and Bobbi J. Pusey who combined for 29 points. In addition to their great defense and strong inside/outside play, UTM was solid from the foul line, going eight for twelve. Williams was a perfect four for four to lead UTM from the charity stripe.

The entire team deserved credit for the win, with each and every player stepping up when their number was called. The Championship team consisted of Negar Tootoonchian, Vanessa Centofante, Arlene Valladolid, Nancy Couture, Jessica Fruiti, Linda Williams, Natasha Barrington, Lindsey Sones, Bobbi J. Pusey and Laura Desveaux. Desveaux was voted MVP of the Championship Game by her peers for her strong play in the final. Four other players received MVP votes by teammates. It was great to see everyone play so well and not rely on one player to score was the the key to the tournament title.

The team is looking to build on the momentum they have gained from this tournament as they head into the Tri-Campus play-offs. The Tri-Campus team is on a four game winning streak and if their strong play of late is any indication, the team looks poised to reclaim the Tri-Campus title.

Women's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	Loses	Ties
Basketball Division 1	5	0	1
Basketball Division 2	4	0	1
Basketball Tri-Campus	4	3	0
Indoor Soccer Division 1	5	3	0
Indoor Soccer Division 2	4	0	1
Volleyball Division 2	3	2	0
Volleyball Tri-Campus	1	3	0
Lacrosse	2	4	0
Ice Hockey	7	1	0

Men's UTM Standings

Sport/Team	Wins	Loses	Ties
Basketball Division 1	10	0	3
Basketball Division 2	4	1	2
Indoor Soccer Division 1	6	0	1
Indoor Soccer Division 2	4	0	2
Volleyball Div 1	6	1	0
Volleyball Div 2	5	1	0
Ice Hockey	3	0	0
IceHockey Tri-Campus	3	3	1
Lacrosse	4	1	0
Waterpolo	1	3	0

Win Of The Week

A combined UTM and Vic team captured the division one U of T Intramural Lacrosse Championship on Tuesday, March 1st. Congratulations to the UTM and Vic team.



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The ACC is not the venue it used to be

BY CHRISTINA KHOURY

The Air Canada Centre is not as cold as it should be. Stanley Cup victory flags dangle from the upper rafters. Security personnel and ushers guard seating sections from platinum to purple. Excited fans bustle down the aisles. The beer taps flow like Niagara Falls. The lines for the beer are slow like snails. Molson Hockey Night in Canada? Think again. The ACC's coma tonight is another reminder of the events that serve to fill the empty stadium in its year long vacation from hockey. This is the only place in nature where winter snow does not bury autumn leaves. In this kind of nature, the Leafs come after the ice. And there ain't no Leafs' falling on this ice tonight.

Centre ice is no longer reserved for Mats Sundin this season. On November 22, 2004 *Velvet Revolver's* Slash, Scott Weiland, Izzy Stradlin, Duff McKagen and Dave Kushner gave fans something to *Fall to Pieces* over. The former members of *Guns n Roses* reunited after sex, drugs, rock, egos. AND a decade. The ACC, iceless, awaits its reunion with hockey. Meanwhile, Mats Sundin travels back and forth from his native Sweden to Canada. Tomas Kaberle is playing for Kladno. Ed Belfour is minding his custom car business in Michigan.

February 23, 2005, 9:30 p.m. This evening's starting line up consists of Tommy Lee, Vince Neil, Nikki Sixx and Mick Mars. *Motley's* *Crue's* Red, White and Crue: Better Live Than Dead tour is the only thing living in the ACC tonight.

On February 16, 2005, 127 days of the season missed and 396 of 1,230

games remaining, Gary Bettman pulled the plug on the NHL after its long battle with death. Over the course of the empty months, the ACC facility remains home to the Toronto Raptors' basketball team, as well as the Toronto Rock lacrosse team. Thousands of fans encourage the rush of the Raptors and the Rock, yet thousands of fans mope in the hush of the Leafs.

"Things have been slow with work," said an usher at the Air Canada Centre. "We didn't necessarily get fired, but you can feel the strain of no hockey because it turns into no ACC games. We still get basketball and concert gigs, but it's the whole Leaf-crazy thing that's missing. I don't walk in here on Saturdays and hear 'Go Leafs Go.' We (the staff) would bet on how long into the game the crowd will start chanting 'Go Leafs Go.' It used to annoy us and now we want to hear it."

The ACC does not bare the burden of the NHL lockout on its own. Local businesses have undergone considerable sales decline. What do fans crave after a night of slap shots and draught beer? Street meat. A hot dog vendor on the corner of Front Street, told me that his stand is "dead." Customer flow? "Dead." Evenings? "Dead." Weekends? "Dead."

I walk into the arena. I don't hear *Queen's* 'We Will Rock You.' I don't smell the freshly zambonied ice. I don't feel the faint cold draft on my nose. I don't see anyone holding the delightfully tacky foam Leafs hand in the air. I don't hear little kids begging their parents for Leaf paraphernalia. Nobody's blue and white painted body art smudges on my jacket. The Air Canada Centre is not as cold as it should be.

Volleyball heats up as teams look to cook the undefeated 'Butter'

BY NATALIE NG

After five weeks of regular season play in coed intramural volleyball, defending champions, Butter, showed why they have owned volleyball for the previous two years. Their highly skilled players passed, set, and hit their way to the top of the standings, finishing with a flawless 9-0 record and giving them the number one seed in the intramural playoffs. Two other dominant teams in the league are Wilson and Vesa, each suffering a loss only from Butter, and splitting their games against each other. Wilson came out victorious, winning by a mere three points, 38-35 overall. Butter and Wilson automatically advance to the semifinals in playoffs, and Vesa anxiously awaits their quarterfinal playoff



photo/Natalie Ng

Three players from Spiked Punch watch as a shot falls to the ground. Spiked Punch will be taking on The Chess Club in one of the quarterfinal games.

game, hoping that Style and Profyle will not spoil their chances of having rematches with the top two teams. The second quarterfi-

nal game will be between Spiked Punch and The Chess Club. These two teams are evenly matched, as they each won 50% of their games. In playoff pool two, the first and fourth teams are separated in the standings by a small five point margin. Semifinals will be played between CW and the Jollibees, who earlier in the regular season split their games, and between the High Hitters and SC Events. Although SC Events previously defeated the High Hitters, the High Hitters did finish the tournament higher in the standings. With the final two weeks of volleyball at hand and teams seemingly evenly matched, highly entertaining games are expected. All are invited to come out to witness whether Butter can truly pull off another championship win, or whether their rivals will surprise with upsets and triumph.



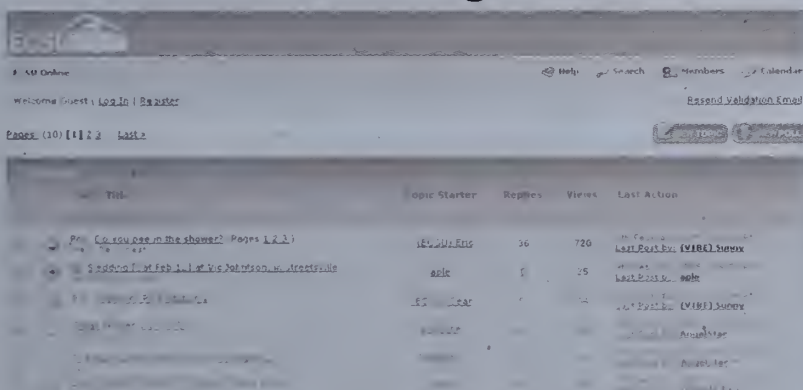
photo/Natalie Ng

A Butter player shows how it's done with a big serve during one of their nine victories at the intramural volleyball tournament.



Erindale College Student Union News and Notes

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<http://forums.ecsu.ca>

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Provincial funding for Ontario's universities is the lowest in Canada – 10th out of 10. The Ontario government spends one-third less per university student now than it did a decade ago. Undervaluing our universities diminishes Ontario's competitiveness in Canada and globally. And it shortchanges our students and their future.

THE RAE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Former Premier Bob Rae was appointed by Premier Dalton McGuinty to study and advise on ways to improve post-secondary education in Ontario. His report calls on the government to:

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- Overhaul student assistance to benefit mid-income families

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Ontario budget is expected in April. It is the government's opportunity to boldly support our universities.

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